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Senator Formica, Senator Osten, and Representative Walker,

Thank you for your service to the state of Connecticut, especially in these challenging financial times. So many services and programs are worthy of your support; I can certainly understand the difficulties you must face in choosing what to eliminate and what to maintain. In this vein, I urge your continued support for borrowIt CT, the program that allows all Connecticut library card holders (some 1.5 million) to borrow materials from all 192 libraries in the state.

What this means is that the residents in smaller towns, with cards issued at smaller libraries, have access to millions of books and other resources from larger town libraries. Groton Public Library is one of these larger libraries, with more than 30 percent of its business dedicated to out-of-town residents. In exchange for providing this valuable service to state residents, GPL is reimbursed a portion of the borrowIt CT appropriation. In the last five years, that reimbursement has dropped from \$45,000 to \$27,000. If borrowIt CT is eliminated, in 2018 the amount will, of course, drop to \$0.

This reimbursement funding is a core piece of the GPL budget, and – as a member of the Groton Public Library Board – I hope we can count on your support to restore the appropriation for borrowIt CT to its full amount of \$806,000. Please feel free to contact me at the above address, or by responding to this email, for a personal conversation about this critical program enjoyed and depended upon by Connecticut residents.

Best regards,

Susan B. Kietzman